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Area Wage Survey
Alaska
July 1985

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U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
October 1985

This summary presents results of a July 1985 survey of occupational wages and supplementary benefits in the State of Alaska. This is 1 of 99 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 109 establishments employing 24,474 workers was selected to represent 342 establishments employing 53,153 workers in the area. (See table 5 for further information on the scope of the survey.) Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Tables 2, 3, and 4 present information on paid holidays, vacation pay provisions, and health, insurance, and pension plans for nonsupervisory production and related workers and office workers.

Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

New or revised occupational descriptions are being introduced in this survey for word processors, motor vehicle mechanics (formerly maintenance mechanics, motor vehicles), and material handling laborers.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Alaska, July 1985

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	5.00 and under 6.00	6.00 – 7.00	7.00 – 8.00	8.00 – 9.00	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 11.00	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 – 18.00	18.00 – 19.00	19.00 – 20.00	20.00 – 21.00	21.00 – 22.00	22.00 – 23.00	23.00 – 24.00	24.00 – 25.00	25.00 – 26.00	26.00 – 28.00	28.00 and over
Secretaries	157	12.40	12.07	10.50–14.28	–	8	2	4	11	29	22	9	28	19	10	7	1	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries I	34	9.96	10.50	10.39–10.53	–	8	–	–	–	20	3	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries II	47	12.61	13.76	11.00–14.42	–	–	2	4	2	–	8	5	7	15	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries III	51	12.84	12.02	10.40–13.70	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	7	–	4	5	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries IV	21	15.20	15.50	13.92–16.45	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Typists	36	8.32	7.69	7.39– 9.50	–	1	21	2	7	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Typists II	12	9.23	9.50	– –	–	1	–	2	7	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Word processors	42	10.01	9.85	8.86–10.39	–	1	2	8	12	14	1	–	1	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Word processors I	30	9.74	9.85	8.13–10.15	–	1	2	8	9	7	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Word processors II	12	10.69	10.39	– –	–	–	–	–	3	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
File clerks	61	6.28	6.41	5.79– 6.67	23	29	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
File clerks I	58	6.30	6.41	5.79– 6.67	21	28	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Receptionists	26	7.68	7.94	6.35– 8.37	2	9	2	7	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operators	68	7.73	7.85	7.20– 7.86	8	8	39	6	1	–	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operator-receptionists	80	8.07	7.80	7.00– 8.39	6	10	35	19	1	3	4	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks	445	9.63	8.78	7.92–10.98	11	36	81	129	41	47	43	8	29	11	10	3	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks I	13	10.14	10.00	– –	–	–	–	2	–	10	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks II	259	9.06	8.50	7.82– 9.54	1	22	56	97	27	20	9	3	16	5	3	1	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks III	136	10.17	9.53	8.00–11.70	–	11	20	29	12	11	32	2	2	6	6	1	2	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks IV	18	12.81	12.22	10.39–16.06	–	–	1	–	1	3	2	3	1	–	1	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Payroll clerks	78	11.06	10.82	9.18–12.44	–	–	4	14	8	17	7	12	10	2	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators	110	8.03	8.40	7.36– 9.99	–	20	18	10	39	11	12	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators I	59	8.45	9.00	7.35– 9.90	–	13	14	2	25	1	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators II	51	9.66	9.57	8.36–10.50	–	7	2	8	14	10	8	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer systems analysts (business)	50	22.66	22.26	20.34–24.90	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	3	–	5	10	1	9	3	3	7	2	–
Computer systems analysts (business) I	8	18.62	17.96	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer systems analysts (business) II	25	22.00	22.79	20.34–23.99	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	2	–	2	5	1	8	1	2	1	–	–
Computer systems analysts (business) III	17	25.60	25.96	21.44–27.84	–	–	–	1	2	–	3	5	9	3	5	10	6	2	1	2	–	5	–	1	2	1	6	*2
Computer programmers (business)	49	14.89	15.44	13.38–16.35	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer programmers (business) I	11	12.37	11.15	– –	–	–	–	1	2	–	3	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer programmers (business) II	17	15.54	15.87	13.21–17.31	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	2	–	4	1	4	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer programmers (business) III	21	15.68	16.00	13.38–16.35	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	2	–	9	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators	69	11.63	11.40	10.04–13.54	–	–	3	8	6	8	15	6	14	5	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators I	20	11.35	11.57	10.09–12.60	–	–	–	4	–	3	4	5	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators II	43	11.45	11.14	9.95–13.54	–	–	3	4	6	5	10	1	8	4	2	–	–	2	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Drafters	14	17.18	16.73	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	3	2	2	–	2	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Drafters V	7	18.07	16.85	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Electronics technicians	524	23.30	24.05	23.34–24.05	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	12	21	6	3	5	1	1	–	–	153	267	46	5	–
Electronics technicians I	31	18.12	15.56	15.01–23.34	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	3	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	–	–	–	–
Electronics technicians II	165	22.47	23.34	23.34–23.75	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	9	3	–	1	1	–	–	–	141	1	–	–	–
Maintenance carpenters	15	23.15	26.57	17.84–26.57	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	8	–
Maintenance electricians	57	21.81	24.15	17.84–24.15	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	–	–	14	1	–	1	–	–	–	30	7	–	–
Maintenance painters	8	19.63	21.77	– –	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	107	20.23	20.80	15.98–22.17	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	7	2	8	9	–	–	18	–	18	3	18	–	–	–	–	–
Motor vehicle mechanics	178	17.23	18.23	13.67–20.35	–	–	–	–	–	9	10	18	20	12	12	2	4	12	19	19	23	–	15	3	8	9	5
General maintenance workers	94	10.47	9.00	8.66–11.35	–	1	4	38	14	15	3	9	3	–	1	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stationary engineers	12	14.80	14.80	– –	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	–	2	2	–	3	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers	519	16.02	17.75	14.50–19.03	18	30	12	11	5	–	24	15	9	15	17	58	68	86	115	10	14	–	7	5	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, medium truck	112	15.81	17.75	11.26–17.75	–	–	–	5	3	–	23	3	–	6	–	–	47	–	25	–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, heavy truck	43	17.30	16.71	16.71–18.79	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	5	2	–	24	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Alaska, July 1985 —Continued

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[3]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	5.00 and under 6.00	6.00 – 7.00	7.00 – 8.00	8.00 – 9.00	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 11.00	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 – 18.00	18.00 – 19.00	19.00 – 20.00	20.00 – 21.00	21.00 – 22.00	22.00 – 23.00	23.00 – 24.00	24.00 – 25.00	25.00 – 26.00	26.00 – 28.00	28.00 and over
Receivers	59	8.38	8.50	7.23– 9.00	–	9	14	11	21	2	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Shippers and receivers	48	13.19	9.43	9.43–16.83	–	–	2	2	22	4	1	1	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	–
Warehousemen	363	14.23	13.97	9.99–19.15	9	17	40	15	10	10	26	18	39	20	11	41	5	5	67	4	3	11	12	1	–	1	–
Forklift operators	36	13.11	13.10	11.75–14.53	–	–	1	–	2	1	12	1	9	4	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guards	653	10.10	8.00	5.50–16.75	190	80	43	95	15	–	6	–	–	4	–	230	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guards I	373	6.30	5.75	5.00– 7.00	190	80	39	41	13	–	6	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	682	7.65	7.56	6.82– 7.56	41	141	371	69	11	11	–	–	–	46	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Cost of living allowances and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

[3] Workers were distributed as follows: 1 at $29.00 to $30.00; and 1 at $34.00 to $36.00.

Table 2. Annual paid holidays for full-time workers in Alaska, July 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid holidays	8	2
In establishments providing paid holidays	92	98
Number of holidays:		
8 half days	1	-
9 half days	2	-
2 holidays	2	-
3 holidays	-	-
Plus 6 half days	2	(1)
5 holidays	7	7
6 holidays	8	5
7 holidays	-	(1)
Plus 1 half day	17	9
8 holidays	18	8
9 holidays	-	6
Plus 1 half day	12	14
10 holidays	(1)	(1)
Plus 1 half day	-	(1)
Plus 2 half days	16	31
11 holidays	1	5
Plus 2 half days	3	4
12 holidays	-	8
Plus 2 half days	1	(1)
13 holidays	1	(1)
15 holidays		
Average number of paid holidays where provided (in days)	8.7	10.1

[1] Less than 0.5 percent.
Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 3. Paid vacation provisions[1] for full-time workers in Alaska, July 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid vacations	7	(2)
In establishments providing paid vacations	93	99
Length-of-time payment	89	99
Percentage payment	3	-
Other payment	1	-
By vacation pay provisions for:[3]		
6 months of service:		
1 week	10	20
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	1	1
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	1	2
3 weeks	-	(2)
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	1	-
1 year of service:		
Under 1 week	3	-
1 week	36	7
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	5	(2)
2 weeks	35	70
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	4	10
3 weeks	5	4
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	2	3
4 weeks	1	2
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	2	3
5 weeks	-	2
6 weeks	-	(2)
7 weeks	1	-
2 years of service:		
1 week	16	(2)
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	2	-
2 weeks	55	69
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	10	13
3 weeks	5	7
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	(2)	3
4 weeks	1	1
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	2	2
5 weeks	-	2
6 weeks	-	(2)
7 weeks	1	-
Over 7 and under 8 weeks	1	2
3 years of service:		
1 week	12	(2)
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	5	-
2 weeks	49	66
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	12	7
3 years of service: --Continued		
3 weeks	10	9
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	(2)	9
4 weeks	-	1
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	4	3
5 weeks	-	2
6 weeks	-	(2)
7 weeks	1	-
Over 7 and under 8 weeks	1	2
5 years of service:		
1 week	9	(2)
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	1	-
2 weeks	12	5
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	7	4
3 weeks	53	60
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	3	4
4 weeks	1	7
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	2	3
5 weeks	1	2
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	1
6 weeks	1	2
7 weeks	1	-
Over 9 weeks	1	2
10 years of service:		
1 week	9	(2)
2 weeks	9	3
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(2)	(2)
3 weeks	18	39
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	7	4
4 weeks	40	42
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	3	(2)
5 weeks	(2)	(2)
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	2
6 weeks	2	5
Over 6 and under 7 weeks	1	1
7 weeks	1	-
Over 9 weeks	1	2
15 years of service:		
1 week	9	(2)
2 weeks	7	3
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(2)	(2)
3 weeks	7	4
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	47	63
4 weeks	3	3
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	4	3
5 weeks	2	2
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	3	5
6 weeks	1	1
Over 6 and under 7 weeks	1	-
7 weeks	1	-
Over 7 and under 8 weeks	1	2
Over 9 weeks		
20 years of service:		
1 week	9	(2)
2 weeks	7	3
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(2)	(2)
3 weeks	5	13
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	7	4
4 weeks	28	55
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	3	3
5 weeks	24	11
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	2
6 weeks	4	8
Over 6 and under 7 weeks	1	1
7 weeks	1	-
Over 8 and under 9 weeks	1	-
Over 9 weeks	1	2
25 years of service:		
1 week	9	(2)
2 weeks	7	3
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(2)	(2)
3 weeks	5	13
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	7	4
4 weeks	27	54
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	3	3
5 weeks	17	3
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	2
6 weeks	12	14
Over 6 and under 7 weeks	1	1
7 weeks	1	-
Over 8 and under 9 weeks	1	-
Over 9 weeks	1	2
30 years of service:		
1 week	9	(2)
2 weeks	7	3
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(2)	(2)
3 weeks	5	13
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	7	4
4 weeks	27	54
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	3	3
5 weeks	16	3
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	2
6 weeks	11	14
Over 6 and under 7 weeks	1	1
7 weeks	2	(2)
Over 8 and under 9 weeks	1	-
Over 9 weeks	1	2
Maximum vacation available:		
1 week	9	(2)
2 weeks	7	3
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	(2)	(2)
3 weeks	5	13
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	7	4
4 weeks	27	54
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	3	3
5 weeks	16	3
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	2
6 weeks	11	14
Over 6 and under 7 weeks	1	1
7 weeks	2	(2)
Over 8 and under 9 weeks	1	-
Over 9 weeks	1	2

[1] Includes basic plans only. Excludes plans such as vacation bonus, vacation-savings, and those plans which offer 'extended' or 'sabbatical' benefits beyond basic plans to workers with qualifying lengths of service. Typical of such exclusions are plans in the steel, aluminum, and can industries.

[2] Less than 0.5 percent.

[3] Includes payment other than 'length of time,' such as percentage of annual earnings or flat-sum payments converted to an equivalent time basis; a payment of 2 percent of annual earnings was considered as 1 week's pay. Periods of service were chosen arbitrarily and do not necessarily reflect individual provisions for progression. For example, the changes in proportions at 10 years' service include changes in provisions occurring between 5 and 10 years. Estimates are cumulative. Thus, the proportion eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after 10 years includes those eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after fewer years of service.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 4. Health, insurance, and pension plans offered to full-time workers in Alaska, July 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments offering at least one of the benefits shown below[1]	92	99
Life insurance	83	92
Noncontributory plans	77	89
Accidental death and dismemberment insurance	75	86
Noncontributory plans	72	83
Sickness and accident insurance or sick leave or both[2]	84	98
Sickness and accident insurance	60	41
Noncontributory plans	55	39
Sick leave (full pay and no waiting period)	51	66
Sick leave (partial pay or waiting period)	14	3
Long-term disability insurance	33	70
Noncontributory plans	30	58
Hospitalization insurance	92	99
Noncontributory plans	76	70
Surgical insurance	92	99
Noncontributory plans	76	70
Medical insurance	92	99
Noncontributory plans	76	70
Major medical insurance	91	99
Noncontributory plans	75	70
Dental insurance	84	94
Noncontributory plans	76	63
Health maintenance organization	1	1
Noncontributory plans	-	-
Retirement pension	73	61
Noncontributory plans	71	60

[1] Estimates listed after type of benefit are for all plans for which at least part of the cost is borne by the employer. 'Noncontributory plans' include only those financed entirely by the employer. Excluded are legally required plans such as workers' compensation, social security, and railroad retirement.

[2] Unduplicated total of workers receiving sick leave or sickness and accident insurance shown separately below. Sick leave plans are limited to those which definitely establish at least the minimum number of days' pay that each employee can expect. Informal sick leave allowances determined on an individual basis are excluded.

Table 5. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Alaska,[1] July 1985

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments				
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey				Studied[4]
				Total[4]		Full-time production and related workers	Full-time office workers	
				Number	Percent			
All divisions	50	342	109	59,153	100	25,623	7,115	24,474
Manufacturing	50	60	18	10,023	19	2,000	528	4,442
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	282	91	43,130	81	23,623	6,587	20,032

[1] The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes executive, professional, part-time, and other workers excluded from the separate production and office categories.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; some services (notably educational institutions and medical services); and government operations.

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